THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI). (a) and (b) Yes, Sir The proposal from the Government of Kerala for diversion of forest land for Sabarigiri augmentation scheme has been rejected under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on ecological considerations.

Approved of Schemes sent by the Rishra municipality under the Ganga action plan

3374. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some schemes have been sent to the Ganga Project Directorate, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi through DGO GAP for sanction by the Rishra Municipality in West Bengal;

(b) if so, when these schemes were received and what are the details of these schemes;

(c) whether these schemes have been cleared; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay in sanctioning these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Two schemes were received by the Ganga Project Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Forests from the West Bengal Government, relating to Rishra Municipality for consideration under the Ganga Action Plan.

(b) The schemes were received in 1986-87. One scheme was for Low Cost Sanitation and the second scheme was for River Front Development of six points.

(c) The Low Cost Sanitation scheme for Rishra was part of a larger scheme covering different parts of the Calcutta Metropolitan District. The scheme proposed conversion of existing dry latrines and construction of new pour flush toilets. Since the scheme envisaged rendering the different towns of the Metropolitan area scavanger free and was not limited to riverside parts of these towns only, the Ganga Project Directorate agreed to finance 50 per cent of the total cost of the scheme. The West Bengal Government was to provide the other 50 per cent from its own or other sources. The amount sanctioned by GPD for the Low Cost Sanitation component in Rishra is Rs. 19.56 lakhs.

In regard to River Front Development, the West Bengal Government proposed such development in 158 Ghats in the Metropolitan area outside of Calcutta and Howrah Municipal areas. The scheme was formulated in five categories, namely, (a) to (e) depending on priority. On the basis of the information furnished by the West Bengal Government regarding intensity of use and the requirement of pollution abatement for each of these locations, GPD has sanctioned improvement in 27 locations. The Ghats suggested for River Front Development in the Rishra Municipality did not satisfy the criteria for priority and as such were not included.

(d) Does not arise.

Enemy property claims

3375. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of enemy property claims from Bangladesh whose cases are still pending with the Custodian of Enemy Property;

(b) how long it will take to clear those claims; and

(c) what steps have so far been taken to expedite disposal of those cases?